

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3844  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**EFFICIENCY OF THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

3844. SHRI E T MOHAMMED BASHEER:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the implementation status and effectiveness of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve efficiency and reduce leakages in the PDS;
- (c) whether the Government has an updated status on the integration of digital technologies for better tracking of food distribution; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

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(a): The Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 in all States/UTs. The Act provides coverage upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains) under Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). The Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month and the households covered under the AAY receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month per household.

At present, 80.67 Crore persons are provided food grains free of cost under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) seamlessly through PDS.

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(b) to (d): As part of the technology driven Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, with the aim to improve the efficiency and reduce leakages in the PDS, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Also, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Urban area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs. Further, for better tracking of foodgrains distribution, nearly 5.41 Lakh (99.6%) out of total 5.43 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

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